

# **Liberty Information Update Meetings**

***Summary***

**Fairbanks**

**Barrow**

**Nuiqsut**

**Kaktovik**

**Anchorage**

**1999**

## Appendix E-2

### Liberty Information Update Meetings

by Minerals Management Service, March 23, 2000

Five meetings were held:

- A. Fairbanks, October 28, 1999
- B. Barrow, November 1, 1999
- C. Nuiqsut, November 2, 1999
- D. Kaktovik, November 5, 1999
- E. Anchorage, November 9 and 10, 1999

#### A. FAIRBANKS

October 28, 1999,

7:00 pm at the Noel Wien Public Library

MMS Attendees were:

Paul Stang, 271-6045

Fred King, 271-6696

Dave Roby, 271-6557

Attendees:

Julene Abrams, 455-8073, 100 Cushman St, Suite 201,  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Jim Aldrich, 455-8073, 100 Cushman St., Suit 201,  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Charles Paskvan, 456-2537, 1028 Dogwood, #404,  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Gabe Strong, 452-5123, 205 Madcap Lake, Fairbanks, AK  
99709

John Ringstad, 456-6891, 757 Illinois St., Fairbanks, AK  
99701

Karl Hannamen

Cliff Burglin, 17 Adak St., Fairbanks, AK 99701

Moon Lew, 564-4530, BP Exploration, P.O. Box 196612,  
Anchorage, AK 99519

Karen Wuestenfeld, 564-5490, BP Exploration, P.O. Box  
196612, Anchorage, AK 99519

Charles Paskvan said that over-dependence on foreign oil was a problem 25 years ago. We had oil embargoes in the 1970's and gas rationing. We are an oil resource based State and we should be supporting new development, which leads

to a strong and healthy economy. The best thing we can do is have new fields come on line.

One individual has been working on the Northstar project. His job was coating the pipeline with fusion bonded epoxy (FBE). He personally did poly coating on every elbow on the pipelines of Badami and Endicott. He heated pipe to 480 F and sprayed on a furim-based coating (plastic coating) to protect pipe from corrosion. He has personally seen the quality of work and has confidence in the quality of the workmanship and the integrity of the pipelines being built. He said "The sooner the better for development of Liberty."

We should be supporting additional production.

One person asked whether there was any basis to do a risk assessment of the depth of strudel scour and ice gouging. What is the ice and strudel scour data for the proposed pipeline route? Dave Roby responded with a general answer. With strudel scour, is there a correlation between the size of the river, the water depth, and the amount and size of strudel scour?

The MMS process takes too long. The projects are geared for big operators, and don't allow small operators to join. MMS should treat small independent operators differently than big operators.

In 1977 Hickel said there were 600 billion barrels of oil in Alaska. We should lease the whole state and live off the leases.

#### B. BARROW,

Nov. 1, 1999,

7:00pm at the Inupiat Heritage Center

Attendees:

Dr. Drew Hageman, Iisagvik College

Charles Neakok, Native Village of Barrow

Harry Brower, Jr., NSB Wildlife Management  
 Maggie Ahmaogak, AEWC  
 R.E. Peetook, AEWC/Wainwright  
 Abel Akpik, ICAS  
 Tom Albert, NSB Wildlife Management  
 Paul Kinglow  
 Johnny Aiken  
 Edna MacLean, Illisagvik College  
 Jane Combs  
 Taqulik Hepa, NSB Wildlife Management  
 Norm Goldstein, KBRW-AM News  
 Ned Arey, NSB Planning Dept.  
 Rex Okakok, Head, NSB Planning Dept.  
 Doreen Lampe, NSB Planning Dept.  
 Anne Jensen, Barrow Arctic Research Consortium  
 Fred Kanayurak, Pres. Barrow Whaling Captains,  
 Ronald Brower, Inupiat Heritage Center  
 Maribel Izquierdo-Rodriguez, Inupiat Heritage Center  
 Charles Brower, Head NSB Wildlife Management  
 Arnold Brower, Jr. ICAS  
 Jana Harcharek, IHLC

The meeting began at 7:00pm with MMS introducing its team: Paul Stang, Fred King, Albert Barros, Dave Roby, and Mike Burwell. At Fred's request the audience introduced themselves, and then he began his PowerPoint presentation that gave an intro. to the Liberty Project, discussed the delay, ongoing project planning, schedules, alternatives, and issues. The presentation concluded with Mike Burwell giving a brief presentation on Environmental Justice.

People felt free to stop Fred and ask questions. What follows are their comments and concerns:

Edna MacLean was concerned about pipeline alternatives and wondered how MMS was going to do an Oil Spill Risk Analysis (OSRA) for each pipeline alternative/design. Dave explained it would be a failure probability computer analysis done by the firm, INTEC. Maggie Ahmaogak asked if the test would happen in a particular Arctic location, and Dave said it would not be onsite but done by computers in a laboratory setting. Drew Hageman wondered if these analyses would be looking at local and actual environmental conditions and Fred said no that it would be a computer analysis of data.

Maggie A. wondered who would determine what would break a pipe. "Do they know enough local knowledge of ice movements?" She said locals say ice can gouge 6 to 9 feet into the sea floor and believes a pipeline is still not safe at 8 feet. It's 6 to 9 feet for Northstar, so why not the same for Liberty? Dave responded that the State Pipeline Coordination Office and the MMS contractor raised several issues regarding BP's statistical analysis of ice gouging and strudel scour and that new models are being prepared by BP.

Edna M. asked if we were considering the knowledge of whaling captains. Fred said we were and that their concerns and information are in the EIS. Also, when the DEIS comes

out the whaling captains can comment on our treatment of their information. Paul Stang added that MMS was working on getting better data/spill statistics for the Arctic, was doing a number of conceptual studies, developing a new statistical approach, and was including much new traditional and technical knowledge.

Jana Harcharek mentioned that the Inupiat History, Language, and Culture Commission (IHLC) had many Traditional Knowledge (TK) sources (tapes, written sources) for ice dynamics. She asked about the agencies participating and Fred listed who the cooperating and participating agencies were for Liberty. Paul added that the agency distinctions in Liberty are not the same as those used for Northstar, and that it was our intention to have the broadest cooperation/participation from affected agencies as possible.

Edna M. asked how MMS made a particular TK observation into a data point for analysis. Mike talked about the MMS TK Study being done by UIC in Barrow and that part of the study was to develop just such a protocol for using TK in the way she was asking. Paul stressed that MMS would always try to be respectful in using TK and did not want to pit Western science against TK.

Arnold Brower talked about his work as a NSB Coordinator for NPR-A and wondered if by being a cooperative agency on Liberty an agency's right to litigate was protected. Paul said that the right was protected and that there were no hard and fast rules for these agreements. Fred interjected that the NSB cooperating agreement gives them the right to litigate.

Doreen Lampe said that in terms of participation, village concerns were very important but that a conference call from the villages was a long distance charge. Paul said MMS was happy to come up and meet with the communities whenever they liked and that Albert Barros, our Outreach Coordinator, would be the point of contact.

Rex Okakok said that with the turnover in administrations, the NSB Planning Dept needed time to study what's been done to this point and that NSB planning needed a participant in the Liberty planning process.

Maggie A. said that when the first Liberty scoping occurred, they were all involved with Northstar and she wondered if new scoping was needed for Liberty. Paul affirmed that this meeting was to accomplish just that, but that we certainly would come back if people thought it was needed. Maggie liked the idea of coming back because she wasn't originally contacted. She wanted to know what studies would be incorporated and stated that the Oil Spill Contingency Plan (for Northstar) was not adequate. "We are all worried about the Oil Spill Contingency Plan... We need a thorough review of it."

Paul explained that we wanted to include the new ongoing studies data in the DEIS and that we would be analyzing the OSCP. Maggie said that noise impacts [to whales?] would be double the ones we are accustomed to and that they were

opposed to this. They were trying to protect their interests [whales/subsistence] and are worried about the advent of subsea pipelines. They want to know if BP is using the best technology. Will the pipeline stand up to big huge icebergs that TK says are coming? Maggie says the elders don't think so: "We all need to discuss these things and be comfortable before the DEIS."

Fred Kanayurak told MMS that he had received no information about this meeting from AEWC, and the implication was that MMS had not done its job getting the word out to whaling captains. Because of this, he said there were only six whaling captains present, but if he'd known, he would have had a full house. He told MMS to get it right and invite everyone next time.

Arnold B. took MMS to task and assumed we'd be including lots of the Northstar narrative for under-ice cleanup. He objected to such an approach because it disregarded the destruction of sealife. Liberty is an area where whales go and belugas, especially, are in a drastic decline. He is concerned that if we follow the Northstar model that we will be telling people the situation is all right when things are dying. New and more solid research is needed on under-ice cleanup. There is no data on the effect of oil being left through the winter on fish and marine mammals, and this research then needs to be incorporated into the EIS. We need better research from you to properly address our Inupiat understanding of these things. There are fewer shrimp and octopus in stomachs of bearded seals, and belugas are going away in Kotzebue.

There needs to be a point of contact in Barrow. FWS had used Arnold B. as a local contact.

The elder Agutak [?], who had been patiently waiting, finally spoke in Inupiaq and Jana H. translated. Loosely quoted, Agutak said: I want to say this but will you listen? Wind makes the water table rise. Wind raises up the ocean. The winds start and get stronger. With winds and currents and rising water, conditions are very perilous. I have seen this more than several times in my life. Very large bergs get beached because of these strong forces. When a big berg moves against the ocean floor, they are like big bulldozers. Very forceful. These icebergs weigh a lot. Because I've seen this more than once, I am fearful of what will happen to a pipeline under the ocean floor because I have seen all this happen. I wanted to share this with you.

Abel Akpik supplied us with a written that he proceeded to read. He told MMS to "Cease and desist all activity on Liberty," and that ICAS was opposed to Northstar from the beginning. ICAS thought its comments on Northstar would be recorded and used because these comments are meant to be heard and weighed. "We at ICAS will fight offshore development." Abel went on to demand that the Chukchi Sea communities be included in the Liberty planning process. They need to be included in the public hearing process. Paul thanked him for his comments and responded

that he would take his written statement and this request back to John Goll.

Ron Brower asked about future schedules and noted that we were doing these projects piece by piece when we should be doing cumulative impacts. He believes new data and new projections are needed. There needs to be a new blueprint from aerial flights to underwater impacts. Paul explained how Liberty fit into the overall matrix of lease sales (Sale 176), the 5-year, and the energy needs of the nation. He explained how a draft development plan from industry tripped the process for writing a development EIS—in this case Liberty. He said that at this time MMS had no other development plans. He also made it very clear that MMS was working on a better process for cumulative effects analysis. Mike and Paul explained a bit about ongoing MMS studies—ANIMIDA and BWASP—that pertained to cumulative effects.

Ron B. talked about the potential destruction of habitat—from whales to krill—from development, asserting that "loss of habitat was a loss of opportunity." Will ANIMIDA address this concern? He talked too about tidal wave action in the Arctic and how at Cape Simpson ice was pushed 1,500 feet over gravel islands on the mainland. MMS needs to look into the question of earthquakes affecting tidal action. He also mentioned the need for impact assistance, and Paul said MMS had just talked to Mayor Ahmaogak about it the same day. Paul described his history with impact assistance and agreed it was a major issue. Mike said he thought it was time for a sociocultural study like ANIMIDA, and that a good way to address many of these concerns was by getting your study ideas into the MMS study process. One participant stated that MMS needs to make its monitoring program the top priority before actual construction starts.

Arnold B. wanted to know where MMS stood on the position ICAS took at a meeting at Alyeska where they and 40 coastal communities put forth their comments on impact assistance. Paul said that MMS was working hard on the issue, that the MMS director supported it, and that our efforts will continue. He said, however, that he personally was not very optimistic about impact assistance given the current situation in Congress. Arnold said that "We [the Inupiat people] need some compensation for dealing with your projects...you sever our lifestyle, [so] we look at it like a severance tax."

Abel A. said that biological studies were needed for Northstar, and that they were not done. He called FWS about this and the only thing they talked about was eider ducks. There was nothing about polar bears or whales, yet the project was permitted. He questioned Alaska Clean Seas doing spill drills during a calm part of the year (August) and not in other conditions.

Maggie A. agreed that the compensation issue was important, and that she had already talked to Albert about compensation language for impact assistance. "The OCS got

lots of money and we don't get any." "What about compensation to whaling captains? How will conflicts be resolved - who will pay?" She said that MMS can expect them to be more aggressive in the public forum for Sale 176 because "we need to get something concrete done. We're tired of repeating ourselves..." Maggie A. said "We know the money is being stolen from our ocean out there. We need something...1% of the lease sale. Put something in writing and go forward paying for impacts." Fred talked briefly about 8 (g) monies and how 27% goes to the State and that how it isn't passed on to the NSB.

Maggie A. talked about the bowhead census that they need to do every 5 years and that even with the money they get from NMFS, they don't have enough to cover census expenses. They are presently getting \$100,000 and that doesn't cover expenses. Maybe MMS could contribute \$100,000 for the census... "One gives the quota [NMFS]; one sells the ocean [MMS]."

Harry Brower, Jr. wondered if wave action had been considered in pipeline and island design. Fred said that it had been folded into the considerations for strudel scour considered on any pipeline that crossed in front of the Sag River Delta. Maggie asked a question about how deep the permafrost was under the undersea portion of the pipeline. Paul said we would get an answer for her.

Paul talked about the "sniffer" tube monitoring system and there was ongoing discussion with Arnold B., Maggie A., Harry Brower, Jr., and Peter Hanley. Paul explained how there was a continuous check always happening when the system is working. Abel A. wondered if the material coating the sniffer tube would be affected by the Arctic environment.

Arnold B. wanted to know how we could assure quality control. Peter Hanley explained that the Siemens people would install the system and check it once a year, and that the hydrogen in the line will accomplish the check to see if it's operating. European systems have been working for many years. Paul added that the key is proper installation. Maggie wondered where the check points were for the system. Peter Hanley said at either end and that there were no intermediate valves or checks along the line. An extra valve increased the likelihood of a leak. He conceded that gouging or line failure in the middle of the line would cause a leak.

The question was raised about how the pipe would be repaired under ice. Moon Lew said it depended on the conditions, as they would be very different between open water and when the ice was frozen fast. Arnold B. suggested a "reverse pump" that would pump oil back to shore and the island. Abel A. observed that if both pipelines broke you would have oil and gas in the environment. Paul explained leak detection in more detail and the pumping shutdown procedure.

Harry Brower asked what the underlying purpose was for this meeting and Paul said it was to explain the slowdown in the Liberty process, restate the concerns we'd heard in scoping, to field new concerns, and to fold all this into the DEIS process.

Doreen Lampe wanted to know who to call for all the different parts of the process: EIS concerns, OSCP concerns, pipeline concerns, oil spills, etc., and Paul said we needed to make this all clearer.

Taqulik Hepa wanted to know if there was a response plan for Liberty. Someone said that it would be addressed in the DEIS.

Jana H. said we must properly address effects to human beings. She said that this was not done adequately for NPR-A. She cited (Sec. 4.4 or Sec. 6-607?) a part in the Executive Order for Environmental Justice (EJ) where it described the need to pay for subsistence data collection and suggested it created a mechanism for Federal money to go directly to the NSB Wildlife Management Dept. to help them in their ongoing community subsistence surveys. She believes the EIS process needs to pay greater heed to addressing the human element in the EIS process and that it was not done in previous EIS's. Mike talked about how MMS addresses EJ. Maggie A. said "So who's going to fix this EJ? MMS? MMS and us?" Regarding EJ, Taqulik H. said that now was the time to get a Subsistence Advisory Panel going, before, not after, development activity begins.

Ron B. mentioned how agreements between Alyeska and the State guaranteed 25% of the pipeline jobs go to Natives and that that never happened. In this light, he wondered what assurances MMS and BP could make about the promises for Liberty. Paul said MMS could not require Native hire of BP. Edna M. asked if there were training programs for Natives in impacted areas and did the University of the Interior have any programs.

Jana H. cited some BLM guidelines that specified particular types of consultation, and asked if MMS had similar guidelines.

Maggie A. requested that MMS take into account cumulative risks and compensation for impacts and that past mitigating measure—that were the product of extensive consultation with the AEWC and others--be included in any new actions, so people know what happens when and who will do what. She affirmed that all communities need to take part in the EJ process.

Doreen Lampe mentioned a Nov. 4th meeting in Barrow on contaminated sites with the Navy, the Army Corps, EPA, and the State to figure out the why, when, and where of cleaning up contaminated sites in the vicinity. In terms of contamination, she said the onshore has had enough.

Tom Albert spoke last and offered 7 observations/points to consider:

- (1) Mayor Ahmaogak has stated in his Sale 176 comment letter the Borough's position on offshore development.
- (2) There are still oil spill problems; cleanup in ice is still a problem for people on the Slope. The "sniffer" tube idea is interesting and we need more info.
- (3) Noise effects are still an issue. With Endicott, Northstar, and Liberty, you have a chain of development. Is this sort of chain going to push fall migrating bowhead whales farther out to sea? This is an ongoing concern.
- (4) Pay attention to local comments. I'm sure MMS will do this in the DEIS.
- (5) Use good study data; analyze honestly and correctly. The Bowhead Whale Feeding Study has limitations. Be careful or there will be confrontation.
- (6) We need good monitoring, and pay attention to results. We need a good monitoring process that is peer reviewed.
- (7) Seismic noise. An old MMS study showed the distance at which bowhead were disturbed to be 7.5 kilometers but now the area has increased to 12 miles due to new studies, but they start to react at about 30 miles. This is a real good reason to listen to what people say...and hear their fears. We don't want a fight on this like we had in the past. If the DEIS doesn't look good we'll be mad...

Doreen L. asked about what studies were used to determine where we leased. Paul explained MMS's basic mandate as an agency and how the 5-year program and lease sale processes work.

Taqulik H. asked that we communicate the concerns we hear in Nuiqsut and Kaktovik back to Barrow.

Maggie A. said they wanted another meeting so the whaling captains can voice their concerns and MMS can capture the TK. The end of January or the first week in February was discussed as a possible date, because this is the approximate date of the whaling captains' annual meeting. Her final comment was one EJ: "What are we going to do on EJ? You do more projects, but still there is no compensation."

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 but the MMS team stayed later to discuss the finer points of certain issues with those who remained.

## C. NUIQSUT

Nov. 2, 1999,

7:00pm at the Nuiqsut Community Center

Before the public meeting, we had a 2:30pm meeting with Mayor Leonard Lampe because he could not make the evening meeting; he gave us his concerns at this time:

Leonard Lampe's comments/concerns:

- ACS oil spill cleanup plans are not accurate.
- Local elders feel the waters are more different here than anywhere else in the world, making a spill in them impossible to cleanup.
- Noise from a production island will interfere with bowheads.
- Time of pipeline construction will cause disturbance. Fred and Paul assured Leonard that construction would occur almost entirely in winter.
- They have asked BP for a study of effects on Arctic cisco from construction and other activities in Camden Bay. They are seeing a decline in cisco now. BP has not responded to their request.
- The people in Nuiqsut want BP to study caribou in the area.
- Nuiqsut has concerns about the design of the Liberty island. Concrete won't work, and bags break down and cause environmental hazards to whales, seals, and polar bears. Paul and Fred described the new bag material and the sheet pile alternative.
- The village still has concerns about air pollution from Prudhoe Bay. State standards are not strict enough.
- Drilling wastes. Fred and Paul explained they will be reinjected.

After Fred and Paul talked about alternatives and alternate pipeline routes, Leonard said he preferred the direct route to shore and definitely did not like any pipeline routed toward Endicott. He thinks the permafrost where the pipeline comes ashore could be an issue. Fred explained the "sniffer" tube technology to Leonard, and he felt that such a system would give them "more confidence" about a pipeline.

Leonard told us that the City of Nuiqsut is going to hire in the next 3 months a local Cultural Guardian half-time position whose job will be to concentrate on development projects and permits. He will serve as a liaison between the village and industry and agencies such as MMS or the State. He will provide adequate local notification of meetings, read EIS's, comment at meetings, etc. The Cultural Guardian will also collect TK from the elders for any area slated for development. He will gather this TK and get it to industry and the appropriate agencies. Albert Barros said later that EJ may empower us & other DOI agencies to pay some of the Cultural Guardian's salary.

Leonard also talked about ice:

- Shorefast ice is the ice to look out for. Young ice comes and goes and causes unpredictable ice movement onto islands. On the east side of No Name Island [SE of Cross Island] they saw a piece of ice 50 feet thick and 100 feet wide while hunting ugruk in August. Now it has melted a lot, but they wonder how such a huge piece of ice could pass through the shallow water near Cross Island. They think it must have come from the south. Thomas Napageak said this sighting confirmed what he knew from old stories about ice movement from the past.

- Thomas N. gave BP a design for Northstar suggesting they build a recurved steel wall that curves the ice back on itself, but BP said they couldn't build a wall like this.

#### About oil spills:

- Leonard talked about past oil spill drills and that it is ACS policy not to go out on the ice if it's dangerous—even when those in Nuiqsut know it's safe. He described a spill drill where the Nuiqsut villagers were forced to take it over and become the trainers because ACS people couldn't perform in the conditions.
- We know about oil spills in ice and snow. "The high risk of an oil spill is what upsets people the most."
- Village Response Teams. He affirmed that BP has not utilized Nuiqsut. There used to be 12 members of the VRT, but they disbanded, and now there is only 1. BP says that ACS will get in contact with them but ACS doesn't. It is disturbing to him and the village that BP, for PR purposes, talks like their VRT is active. We want training in airboats, on booms, on ice so we can stay up to date with certification and get compensated at an acceptable rate.

#### About fish:

He said Nuiqsut is trying to set up a Nuiqsut Fishing Association because no one is looking out for cisco, broadfish, and whitefish. Fred asked if there would be a problem with a 500 foot causeway. Leonard said to talk to Sara Kunaknana because she knows about ice conditions in the area; she knows winds, currents, animals, the area around Prudhoe and Foggy Island Bays. She's the TK source for the area. She knows the Endicott area too and whales and birds.

#### About caribou:

Leonard said they don't see as many calving caribou as they did before. The Tarn well has changed their south/north migration and Alpine may affect their east/west migration. Caribou have to cross 3 pipelines now. There is some concern with the Liberty pipeline especially toward shore because it comes ashore in an insect relief area; for this reason, he'd like to see the onshore portion buried.

#### About aerial flights:

He doesn't want too many to come with development because there are already too many from local hunters.

Evening Meeting Attendees: Christopher Long, Annie Stern [Skin?], Marjorie Ahnupkana, Alice Ipalook, Lloyd Ipalook, Steve Leavitt, Dora Nukapigak, Virginia "Virgie" Kasak, Della Dreggs, Ruth Nukapigak, Richard Tukle, Frederick Tukle

The meeting began at 7:00pm with MMS introducing its team: Paul Stang, Fred King, Albert Barros, Dave Roby, and Mike Burwell; our interpreter, Virgie Kasak, introduced the people from Nuiqsut. Fred did his PowerPoint

presentation that gave an introduction to the Liberty Project, discussed the delay, ongoing project planning, schedules, alternatives, and issues. The presentation concluded with Mike Burwell giving a brief presentation on Environmental Justice.

People felt free to stop Fred and ask questions. What follows are their comments and concerns:

Before the meeting began, Steve Leavitt and Lloyd Ipalook were standing around talking to Mike Burwell about the fact that there are no fish right now. They think BP activities are driving them out. There are no caribou and helicopters are scaring the moose.

Paul began the meeting by introducing the MMS team

Ruth Nukapigak, the resident elder for the meeting, came in after Fred had started, and he backed up and showed her the Liberty area map.

After Fred got to the alternative pipeline routes, Ruth immediately voiced her concerns (in Inupiat—Virgie translated). She was very concerned that fish habitat would be disturbed by any routing toward Endicott. She knows the area well and feels it will be affected. In fact, all the alternatives will affect fish.

There was much discussion—in Inupiat—about the best alternative. They asked us if we were aware of gravesites on the shoreline of Foggy Island Bay, and we said we were not. They said that the other elders who would know more about this are Abraham Woods and Sara Kunaknana from Nuiqsut and Lucy Ahvakana from Barrow. The elders at the meeting could not remember where the gravesites were; nevertheless, they were concerned with the potential of disturbing them. Ruth N. preferred the pipeline that went straight south because it wouldn't affect migrating fish as much. She wanted to know the water depths and Dave R. showed her the map indicating depths of 22 feet. Again, she affirmed that regardless of the type of construction, there will be disturbance to fish. She said they've noted a decrease in whitefish since the work at Kalubik. There used to be 100-200 fish caught per day vs. 6 to 9 per day now. ["Freeze up till December—noticed change this year" = Does anyone remember the context of this statement?]

After Mike spoke on EJ and mentioned that Thomas Napageak had served on the OCS Advisory Committee, most everyone in the room said they didn't know what the OCS Advisory Committee was, didn't know Thomas N. was on it, and didn't even know how he had been selected. Mike explained the selection process, and they said that there were better ways to let the whole village know about things like this and public meetings: a fax to the village coordinator, the local powerplant, other city departments (Leonard has a list), a letter to each boxholder, a message on KBRW.

Fred and Albert asked what were the best times for bigger and more representative meetings. The 7:00pm timeframe



seemed good, but they did want the meeting announced and posted 3 weeks before we came.

A big issue was the fact that the observers on the seismic boats are handpicked by the AEWG in Barrow and then referred to Western Geo. and LGL. It upset the people in Nuiqsut that Barrow people were chosen to monitor in Nuiqsut's traditional areas and that these monitors did not even have the courtesy to come to the village and talk to them about the monitoring. They want a local person as a part of the monitoring effort for seismic, and they want an Inupiat observer on BWASP. The points of contact for identifying these people are Leonard Lampe and the Village Coordinator.

When Fred and Paul kept asking for further concerns, the elders said that it was hard for them to voice concerns when other elders and tribal council members were not present. Albert asked when was a good time to meet with elders and the people said the elders were usually together on Thanksgiving and we could get a lot of concerns then.

Ruth N. was concerned about effects on the food fish eat, and observed that she had seen many of these meetings, and it was always the same thing [i.e., We are not heard.]. Paul again asked for more concerns and Ruth spoke about subsistence: We can buy food from the store but we prefer subsistence foods. She has fished every year and she believes the fishing is going to be affected by Alpine and Kalubik. She can tell a contaminated fish and has already caught some. They have been contaminated by the spill of drilling mud under the Colville River. There are red dots/punctures all over the fish, and it comes from contamination from drilling muds spilled in the Colville. They used to catch 150 fish a day, and now they get 9. She grew up hunting and fished as a girl and she still hunts today. She remembers once when a girl washed dishes in the river and the fish disappeared from that spot. She believes contamination is happening to the caribou as well. Caribou smell the Alpine smoke [air pollution] and scatter. Caribou are known for smelling humans and going the other direction.

Basically, the biggest concern from the elders present was that we come back and get more concerns when more elders are present. Albert asked if they would like to see our notes from the meeting, to see what we got and if we got it accurately. He asked if they would you like to see a summary of what we did so they could discuss it with the other elders? He asked the group if it would be helpful to have it in English and Inupiat?

Ruth N., Alice Apalook, and Marjorie Ahnupkana said the best thing to do would be to attend the elder potluck that happens once a month. All the elders would be there and we could bring the summary and maps, pass them around, have some food, and ask them for concerns then. They said we could coordinate this through Village Coordinator, Carolyn Ahkiviana. They felt that in such a setting we would get

plenty of concerns and more knowledge of the land and resources.

Marjorie A. and Ruth N. talked about how the Eskimo traditions of long ago were going away with the oil companies coming in. They were losing their old hunting grounds and have noticed fewer caribou. Caribou have changed their routes since the Alpine pipeline. They used to go from Fish Creek to Ocean Point, and on the way, cross the river near the village. Now, to avoid the Alpine drill site and pipeline, they go around to the east avoiding the village in the process. Part of the problem is that caribou won't put their antlers down to cross under a pipeline. They will go around it instead. It takes years for them to be willing to cross under. Also, 5 feet is too low for a pipeline with wintertime snow drift. Before the pipeline, we had the Porcupine Herd going to Fish Creek. Now there are going way out. There are very few caribou. It could be that they are afraid of the muskox. Paul asked if the muskox and the caribou were natural enemies and the reply was they must be. Over on the Itkillik River, the muskox chase the caribou and the elders don't like it.

In light of Mayor Lampe's comments earlier in the day, Paul and Fred asked if burying the pipeline or raising it would solve some of these problems. There was no consensus. Some people said the caribou would go under if it were higher and some said burying it was better. Ruth N. and Marjorie A. wanted to know what were the results of recent caribou studies. Does the FWS know these answers? They knew BP did some caribou studies at Badami but they never heard what the results were. Paul and Fred said they'd check on these studies and get back to the village.

Ruth N. said again that more elders needed to comment on these issues and that we should come for the potluck. The meeting adjourned about 9:30pm.

After the meeting, Frederick Tukle said his family had been in the area for 5 generations. He told us that Abraham Woods was an elder we should talk to and that he (Frederick) would like to be considered as a translator for future meetings.

## D. KAKTOVIK

Nov. 5, 1999,

7:00pm at the Kaktovik Community Center

MMS Attendees were: Fred King, Albert Barros, Dave Roby, and Mike Burwell

Attendees: Susie Akootchook, Tom Cook, BP, Isaac Akootchook, Ida Angasan, Herman Aishanna, Vice-mayor, M. Aishanna, Merylin Traynor, Clarice Akootchook, Leonard Gordon

The meeting opened with an invocation by elder Isaac Akootchook in Inupiat. Then our translator Clarice Akootchook asked if we needed to translate the whole



meeting and the consensus was that people would ask her to translate as needed; the meeting was conducted in English.

Fred introduced the MMS team as well as the BP folks present: Tom Cook, and two other BP people, Erin Ford and Tom Reddin, running a United Way outreach to the village. Fred went through his PowerPoint presentation, with questions raised and answers given along the way.

Clarice Akootchook asked about job opportunities with Liberty, and Tom C. said there were some ongoing job program joint ventures with ASRC and that he would have Cindy Bailey send the details to her and Lon Sonsalla. Ida Angasan said that the local kids really needed job training.

Susie Akootchook asked for more information on the Boulder Patch, and Fred and Mike explained a bit about the Boulder Patch area. She said she didn't like any pipeline routing that would go through the area.

Isaac Akootchook asked about where permafrost was; Fred said there was none under the island site or the pipeline route but from the shoreline out 500 feet there was. Isaac talked about Foggy Island Bay, saying he had seen lots of rough water, wind, and waves there. He said these forces needed to be studied. He asked about gravel bags, and Fred and Tom C. told him that there would be cement armoring to above the waterline. Tom said this type of armoring had been used in Endicott and since 1986, they had never had to do maintenance on it. Tom assured those at the meeting that BP would be back to explain Liberty Island construction in more depth. Tom seemed to be saying that the use of gravel bags was over and that Liberty would follow Northstar in this regard.

Herman Aishanna wondered who was getting environmental impact funds. Fred replied that, as yet, there was no legislation for impact assistance. Fred and Mike explained the various impact assistance bills on the Hill.

Merylin Traynor asked what would happen if the island were moved south. Fred explained that the whole taxation regime would change but that the royalty arrangement would stay the same. Dave R. explained that it was the location of the oil reservoir that determined jurisdiction.

Susie A. asked about the foundation for the pipeline and Fred and Dave explained the undersea cross section and the onshore configuration. Merylin asked for clarification about two lines running from the island and Fred explained their would be oil and gas lines running together.

Merylin asked what the currents in the area were like. Fred said they were low but, offhand, he didn't know how fast they ran. He told her they would be trenching the route for the pipeline in winter when currents would be minimal and sedimentation less. Merylin also asked if there would be polar bears and seals in the vicinity of construction and Fred said that, yes, there were, and it was possible they would be disturbed. Mike talked about disturbance strategy plans that

were required to be in place and Fred stressed that winter construction would limit disturbance.

Susie A. wondered how big the island was going to be; Fred told her it would be about the size of three football fields. She wondered about noise and Fred said there would be two types, construction noise and production noise. Mike explained that noise from the island would hit the Barrier Islands first and disperse before it reached the areas of whale migration. She said that "noise underwater goes an long way," and Fred said noise would be discussed at length in the DEIS.

Herman A. said that he would like to see us "deviate those wells into State waters." He asked about trenching depth and Fred said it would be 8 feet deep with 7 feet of cover and that there was an alternative to bury it 15 feet. Herman observed: "I bet AEWC doesn't like this project." Fred said that yes, they were opposed to offshore development. Herman said with all the acreage in ANWR that the government should develop there before they go offshore. Fred said many people would like to do that, but at this time there's no development allowed.

Merlyn T. asked for more on the islands specifications and Fred showed his slide of the island in cross section. He talked some about the location and function of concrete mats and gravel bags and the steel sheet pile alternative. Tom C. told her that Northstar went away from using gravel bags and that the engineers for Liberty should be aware this may need to be changed for the Liberty island, as well. Dave explained that the island was 140 feet wider than the work surface on all sides.

Ida Angasan asked about the BP/State flap over BP's filing with the FTC. Dave R. explained that a proposed agreement had just been announced today.

Herman A. asked about the expected lifespan of the island, and Fred said it was 20 years. Herman asked if the bags would stay for 20 years and Fred told him yes. Herman asked about the shutdown of production at Badami. Tom C. said the wells weren't producing like expected. Ida A. said they'd laid off 150 people and Dave R. explained that the field would be shut in for this winter. Susie added that it was because the oil was too thick, and they were afraid it would freeze. Fred explained that Liberty oil was more like Endicott oil.

Merylin T. asked what would be left behind when the island was abandoned. Fred said that BP had to provide MMS with an environmental plan for island abandonment. Dave R. explained that, normally, they would have to remove all surface facilities. It could be decided to leave the island—it might at that point be potentially valuable habitat. The wells, of course, will be plugged and abandoned in accordance with MMS regulations.

Herman A. stated that the State got 27% of all revenue/royalties, but that the NSB would not get anything. In terms of Liberty, "they can't even tax it."

Isaac A. said the project should not be done because there were lots of waves, lots of rough water, but *not* really lots of ice pile up in the lagoons. It was not like around Barrow or Oliktok although he does remember this ice being picked up and deposited ashore by wave action that accompanied the 1964 Earthquake.

Clarice A. remembers a time when there was a sick polar bear in the village and they didn't know at the time who to call. Fred said he would provide her with a FWS contact.

The meeting ended with a brief talk by BP's United Way team saying there were there to see what they could do to help the village. Herman A. said "United Way. Welcome!."

## E. ANCHORAGE

**November 9, 1999, 7:00-9:00 pm**

**November 10, 1999, 12:00-5:00 pm**

**MMS, Alaska OCS Region**

**Third Floor Conference Room**

MMS Attendees for both meetings were:

Paul Stang, 271-6045

Fred King, 271-6696

Dave Roby, 271-6557

Attendees on November 9:

Kristen Nelson, 564-5490, PNA, 2613 McRae Rd,  
Anchorage, AK 99517

Ed LaFehr, 868-3592, BP Exploration, P.O. Box 196612,  
Anchorage, AK 99519

Moon Lew, 564-4530, BP Exploration, P.O. Box 196612,  
Anchorage, AK 99519

Karen Wuestenfeld, 564-5490, BP Exploration, P.O. Box  
196612, Anchorage, AK 99519

Glen Gray, P.O. Box 33646, Juneau, AK

Pam Miller, 279-1909, P.O. Box 101811, Anchorage, AK  
99510-1811

Emerson Milenski, 564-5362, BP Exploration, P.O. Box  
196612, Anchorage, AK 99519

Dan Ritzman, 277-8234, Greenpeace

Melanie Duchin, 277-8234, Greenpeace

Michael Foster, 696-6200, Michael L. Foster & Associates

Attendees on November 10:

Moon Lew, 564-4530, BP Exploration, P.O. Box 196612,  
Anchorage, AK 99519

Karen Wuestenfeld, 564-5490, BP Exploration, P.O. Box  
196612, Anchorage, AK 99519

Katie Farley, 271-4476, SPCO/ADNR

Walt Johnson, 703-450-7956, MMS, Herndon

Melanie Duchin said that the MMS pipeline workshop indicated that directional drilling technology could extend to approximately 7 miles. MMS should consider and evaluate in the EIS developing the Liberty Prospect from onshore. The EIS should provide additional information about directional drilling.

She said that there are still concerns about climate change. The EIS section on cumulative impacts should include reasonable and foreseeable impacts.

She said that the cumulative effects analysis should also analyze the combined effects of Northstar and Liberty and future offshore developments. The analysis should evaluate the cumulative effects of such things as supply flight routes that travel in a loop from one production island to another and so forth. Also, MMS should indicate in the EIS what happens when the weather doesn't allow for such flights. The analysis should indicate the number of days per year of flights and the consequent impacts of the Liberty project on the whales if you can't fly above 1500 feet.

The EIS should do original analysis and not just reference Northstar or past MMS EIS's.

Pam Miller endorsed Melanie's comments and asked that we do a separate alternative in the EIS on directional drilling, especially if we are considering a 4-mile alternative. She also said that monitoring plans (both MMS's and BP's) programs should be part of the EIS. She felt that BP being on the ANIMIDA panel is an outrage. She wants a better definition of where the Boulder Patch is, as well as species distribution and composition.

The EIS should identify the biological species that are inhabiting the areas. Pam Miller stated that she is against the potential alternative route through the Boulder Patch to the Endicott Satellite Drilling Island. She also stated that it would be a waste of taxpayer's money to even consider such an outrageous alternative.

There are too many impacts associated with causeways to consider even a short causeway in the nearshore permafrost zone. She said MMS should require BP to submit a new C-plan (Oil Spill Contingency Plan) and it should be evaluated in the EIS. BPXA representatives indicated that they did submit a revised plan in June of this year. MMS should evaluate island locations that are in shallower water where oil cleanup may be more difficult because the shallow water depth may prevent some vessels from operating. The MMS study for North Slope oil spills should look at all sizes of spills. They have concerns about all oil spills, including small chronic spills.

Dan Ritzman said that watching the C-Plan trials made him even more worried about clean-up capability. He also suggested that if MMS considers an Endicott route for the pipeline, we need to describe costs of the monitoring program.